



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Rice export to China increased 59 percent during January to March 2019.

According to an official report, Cambodia had exported 75,214 tonnes of milled rice to China in the first quarter of 2019, up 59 percent over the same period last year. During the January-March period this year, China was the biggest buyer of Cambodian rice which export to China accounted for 44 percent of the country's total rice export of 170,821 tonnes. Meanwhile, the total of 51,552 tonnes of milled rice were exported to the European markets during the period, down 33 percent from a year earlier. This was because the European Union (EU) imposed tariffs on rice imports from Cambodia, as well as Myanmar, earlier this year in order to curb a surge in rice imports from both nations.

Source: Khmer Times. (2019, Apr 15). *Cambodia's rice export to China up 59 pct in Q1.*

Myanmar

Rice exports are anticipated to reach 2.5 million tonnes in 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Myanmar expects to export about 2.5 million tonnes of rice and broken rice in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, starting from 1 April to 31 March, due to low rice demands from China and the European Union (EU). China is the biggest rice export market for Myanmar, accounting for 46 percent of the total rice exports. Nevertheless, rice demand from the market has been stagnant. Meanwhile, Myanmar had been enjoyed tax exemption for all kinds of rice exports to the EU. However, after the EU imposed tariffs on indica rice imports from Myanmar, as well as Cambodia, this affects some 60,000 to 100,000 tonnes of such rice. Until early March of 2018-2019 fiscal year, Myanmar exported over 2.2 million tonnes of rice and broken rice to 75 countries, rice to 50 counties and broken rice to 25 countries, with the total revenue of 730 million USD, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Source: Eleven Myanmar. (2019, Apr 10). *Rice and broken rice exports expected to hit about 2.5 m tons*; Eleven Myanmar. (2019, Mar 19). *Myanmar earns over US\$730 M from over 2.21 million tons of rice export*; and The Myanmar Times. (2019, Jan 17). *EU tariffs on rice to have limited impact.*

Philippines

The country's rice inventory up by 30.87 percent at the start of March 2019.

As reported by the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA), the total rice inventory as of 1 March 2019 stood at 2.22 million tonnes, up 30.87 percent from last year's inventory level of 1.69 million tonnes. Similarly, the stock inventory for this month was 3.75 percent above the previous month's level of 2.14 million tonnes. Of the total rice inventory, 46.53 percent were in the households, 31.32 percent were in commercial warehouses, and 22.15 percent were in the National Food Authority (NFA) depositories. Month-on-month, rice stocks

in the households and NFA depositories rose by 0.12 percent and 65.29 percent, respectively. On the other hand, stocks in commercial warehouses dropped by 14.22 percent. Compared with the previous year's level, stocks in commercial warehouses up by 25.75 percent. In contrast, rice stocks in the households declined by 6.08 percent. Meanwhile, there was a substantial increment of 1,030.17 percent in NFA depositories.

Source: The Manila Times. (2019, Apr 11). *Rice inventory up 30.8% in March.*

Viet Nam

Viet Nam is on the process to develop new markets for rice exports.

The Prime Minister asked the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) to come up with solutions on developing export markets for rice products with the goal of maintaining and strengthening traditional markets as well as expanding into new ones. Regarding this, the MOIT has coordinated with relevant ministries, sectors, the Viet Nam Food Association (VFA), and rice exporters to implement solutions, such as reviewing the demand and import policies of foreign markets. Then the MOIT proposed agreements with foreign partners to facilitate Viet Nam's rice exports. The MOIT has implemented many programmes on trade promotion and brand development, adding that it has updated information for local enterprises and associations about regulations on food hygiene and safety, quality control, and traceability. Besides, the MOIT has cooperated with localities with high outputs of rice, for instance An Giang, Long An, and Kien Giang provinces, Can Tho City, and Ho Chi Minh City, to assist businesses in studying customer demand and promoting exports. So far, Viet Nam's rice products have been exported to 150 countries and territories, including the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Cuba, Hong Kong, Singapore, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Mozambique.

Source: Viet Nam News. (2019, Apr 11). *Việt Nam to develop new markets for rice.*

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